

of Public Works Committee amendments to LB 658. Please, please record your vote on the adoption of committee amendments. The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Sieck, explain the bill. Can we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, LB 658 is also quite simple bill, intended to broaden the criteria that must be met to qualify for the handicapped license plates. I want to stress from the beginning that this bill will allow no new people to park in the handicapped parking stalls. Under present law, there are two methods of legally parking in the handicapped stalls. One is obviously by having a license plate, but the criteria set out in Chapter 60 of the statutes now says that to be eligible, a person must have lost the use of two or more extremities. Under this law, those that presently qualify receive such plates exempt of any fees. For your information, people are also allowed to park in handicapped parking stalls by obtaining a permit sticker. The criteria for this sticker is much broader as found in Chapter 18 of the statutes. And we just passed a bill this year, Senator Higgins' bill, which would allow the, the sticker to be even larger. So that would be, also, included. I've introduced this bill as a result of some problems a constituent of mine had. This constituent who had a parking permit traveled to a neighboring state where he was towed from...towed from a handicapped parking stall. It seems those authorities failed to notice the permit which was laying on the dashboard of the car. This bill would allow that those people presently receiving the sticker would be now eligible for the plate. But as you can see in Section 2 of the bill, those that qualify for the plate under the broader criteria would have to pay all regular license fees. Those that have always been receiving free plates will continue to do so while those new people that qualify under this bill would have to pay for them. The reason there is a relatively